

FIRST CHRISTIAN AND ORCHARD PARTIES ONEIDA
INDIANS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 450.]

JANUARY 29, 1851.

Mr. CLARKE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Daniel Bred and Jacob Cornelius, chiefs and delegates of the First Christian and Orchard parties of the Oneida Indians in Wisconsin, report:

That in the year 1794 the United States, by treaty of that date, stipulated to pay the "six nations" of New York Indians four thousand five hundred (4,500) dollars annually, which sum was to be divided amongst the said six nations according to their numerical strength. (See Statutes at Large, vol. 7, page 46.) The Oneida Indians composed one of these six nations. The Indians whose petition is the subject of this report are of that tribe or nation, and are styled "the First Christian party" for the reason that they first embraced the Christian religion. This party, with the approbation of the United States, emigrated to Green Bay, and were entitled under the treaty aforesaid, and by the promise of the government, to their proportion of the said annuity according to their numerical strength. In consequence of the separation of these bands and the inaccurate knowledge of the government as to their relative numbers, and in part to the neglect of the Indian agent and the remissness of the Indian department at Washington, it happened that in the apportionment and distribution of the annuity for and during twelve years preceding 1842, the bands or tribes remaining in New York received \$3,934 68 *more* than their just proportion, and the Oneidas \$4,260 *less*, and the Stockbridges \$174 88 less than their just proportion. Of this apportionment the emigrating party frequently, and indeed every year, complained to this government, till the year 1843, when, to remedy this mistake, the government made a new apportionment of the annuity, by which such a deduction was made from that portion of the annuity going to the bands that remained in New York, and added to that portion which was due to the Oneidas and Stockbridges who had emigrated, that in the year 1850 the various bands would have received their just proportions of the *principal* of the annuity.

This arrangement has been perfected, and the injustice of which the petitioners complain is this: that for nearly twenty years the government has been indebted to them, and has paid no interest on that indebtedness. This simple interest at six per cent. amounts to one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four dollars and eighty cents (\$1,764 80,) and which sum the committee think is justly due, and they therefore ask leave to report by bill.

